

Welcome to the Education UK Scotland Update. A lot has happened since our last issue. Mark Simmons has moved on to a new job in British Council Visits in London and we wish him all the best. Kelly Ferguson has joined the team on a temporary basis we are currently recruiting for a new post.

An extended Committee away day is scheduled for June where key stakeholders and sector representatives will shape the future strategy of Education UK Scotland.



This month we feature one of Scotland's newest and most innovative education providers – **Studio Art School**.

Studio Art School is Scotland's first virtual art college. Students from around the world can access a range of practical, online courses that will assist them in the preparation of their portfolio prior to applying to Higher Education institutions in the UK. Additionally, tutors offer advice and guidance on all aspects of the application process from the type of course most appropriate to the student to the preparation of personal statements.



Online learning is increasingly being regarded as an attractive alternative to traditional methods of study. All students require access to the internet and a digital camera. Students can study a wide range of art disciplines; from drawing and painting to mixed media and fashion design. Once enrolled, students are allocated a password protected, personal studio on the Studio Art School web site. Here students can access teaching materials. Student's work is uploaded into "My Studio" where it is appraised by the School's team of experienced tutors. Students can communicate with their tutor at any time and can choose to work at their own pace.

Art and Design education in the UK has an international reputation and students from many countries have come to study at colleges and universities which have produced some of the world's best known designers. Overseas students can graduate from degree level courses with internationally recognised qualifications and enhanced career prospects.

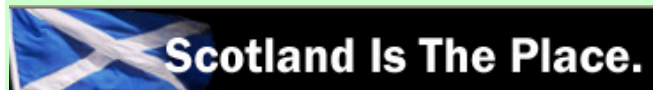
However, entry to courses is fiercely competitive and applications regularly exceed the number of places available. Essentially, entry is determined by the assessment of a portfolio. Art and design institutions in the UK frequently report that overseas students are unable to produce a portfolio of the required standard in their home country. While the majority of UK students complete a portfolio preparation or Foundation year prior to applying to UK institutions, fees for overseas students can be prohibitive.



The Studio Art School offers an affordable and effective solution with their range of courses designed for overseas students who are intending to apply to UK institutions. This School offers overseas students the chance to study in their home country while taking advantage of the opportunity to save on one year's international fees.

Studio Art School tutors have over fifteen years experience of successfully preparing students for entry into degree level courses in the UK and the School welcomes students from around the world. The Studio Art School was recently nominated for a prestigious New Statesman New Media award for demonstrating "ingenuity, modernisation and accessibility in the field of education".

To find out more see www.studioartschool.co.uk



Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme

From summer 2005 all students graduating from Scottish higher educational institutions will have the option to remain and work in Scotland for up to 2 years after they have graduated.

The Scheme will apply to people who have been living in Scotland and studying at a Scottish college or university. It will enable them to stay and work in Scotland for two years after the end of their course without the need for a work permit.

Those eligible to apply for permission to stay will have graduated with a Higher National Diploma from a Scottish Further Education College or a first degree, Master's degree or Ph.D. from a Scottish Higher Education Institution.

Application forms will be available shortly at the following websites:
www.scotlandistheplace.com
www.workingintheuk.gov.uk



An information leaflet is available on the scheme from the Education UK team or by contacting the Relocation Advisory Service – see www.scotlandistheplace.com for details.

Calendar activity

April 2005

1st – 13th Tartan Week – New York, Lyndsey Hayes
GETEX in Dubai, Liz Neil
Annual Evaluation out to sector

May 2005

NAFSA – Seattle, Lyndsey Hayes

June 2005

13/14th EDUKS committee away day
18 – 25th US High School Counsellors tour of Scotland
Annual Report

July 2005

Inward careers visit from Kenya (tbc)

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